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DESPITE SC ORDER, ARMY SAYS 28 WOMEN OFFICERS 'UNFIT'

A total of 28 women officers have been declared unfit to serve in the Army, with 11 of them set to leave the forces soon

SEVEN OFFICERS MOVE SUPREME COURT

Out of the 28 who were found unfit, seven officers have knocked the doors of the apex court terming the Army order discriminatory. One officer told this paper that the Army is not accepting the same criteria based on which they were given extensions twice earlier. The Supreme Court had given the ruling to grant permanent commission (PC) to women officers in Feb 2020

SO FAR, 424 WOMEN GRANTED P.C.

- Following the SC order, a special board was set up to identify women officers to be given permanent commission
- As many as 615 women officers were considered, of which 424 were granted PC. The results of 77 have been withheld and 28 have been declared unfit to continue

20 yrs

MOST OF THE WOMEN OFFICERS HAVE OVER TWO DECADES OF SERVICE

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TIRUCHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM • WARANGAL • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI

Mullah Hassan to head Taliban's interim govt, Baradar is deputy PM

Mullah Hassan Akhund
Interim PM

Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar
Deputy PM

THE OTHERS

- Sirajuddin Haqqani — interior minister
- Mullah Mohammad Yaqoob — defence minister
- Mawlawi Abdul Kabir — finance minister
- Mullah Ameer Khan Muttaqi — foreign minister
- Mullah Mohammad Fazil — deputy defence minister
- Qazi Fazl Ahmad — Army Chief of Staff
- Sher Mohammad Abbas Stanekzai — deputy foreign minister
- Mawlawi Noor Jalal — deputy interior minister
- Qari Din Hanif — economy minister
- Zabihullah Mujahid — deputy minister & culture minister
- Mullah Tajmir Jawad — first deputy, intelligence dept
- Mullah Rahmatullah Najeeb — administrative deputy, intelligence department
- Abdul Haq Wasiq — acting director, intelligence
- Haji Mohammad Idris — acting director, central bank

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

TWENTY-three days after taking control of Kabul and promising a broad-based, inclusive and internationally acceptable regime, the Taliban on Tuesday announced an interim government comprising their own men.

Declaring the country an Islamic Emirate, the militia said the new government will be led by Mullah Hassan Akhund, an associate of the movement's late founder Mullah Omar, as prime minister. There will be two deputy prime ministers – the outfit's political head Mullah Abul Ghani Baradar and Abdul Salam Hanafi, a member of the Islamist group's political office in Doha, Qatar. Sirajuddin Haqqani of the dreaded Haqqani Network will be the interior minister, while Mullah Mohammad Yaqoob (son of Mullah Omar), will be defence minister.

Hailing from Kandahar, Akhund served as governor of the province during the outfit's first reign in the 1990s. Baradar was the leader of the Taliban delegation in the Qatar peace talks. Haqqani, a US-designated terrorist, still has a $10 million bounty on his head.

While there was no mention of what role Taliban supreme leader Mullah Haibatullah Akhundzada will play in the government, the secretive leader on Tuesday issued a statement saying the new government will uphold the sharia law.

The announcement of the new government, which doesn't have a single woman member, came on a day when the capital city witnessed huge protests by women denouncing Pakistan's airstrikes in the Panjshir province. Chanting 'death to Pakistan' and 'Freedom', the protesters gathered at the gate of the Pakistani embassy in Kabul and asked its staff to leave the country, local media reported. Taliban gunmen broke up the protests by repeatedly firing into the air and threatening to shoot the protesters. They also detained several journalists covering the protests and allegedly thrashed some of them.

When questioned about the handling of the protests at the press conference to announce the new government, Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid simply said the demonstrations were illegal. P11

Farmers begin indefinite dharna

Farmers participating in a protest at Haryana's Karnal on Tuesday before beginning their indefinite dharna | SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Talks with Karnal administration fail; action sought against brutal caning on August 28

HARPREET BAJWA @ Chandigarh

THOUSANDS of farmers on Tuesday laid an indefinite seige around the mini secretariat in Haryana's Karnal city demanding immediate action against officials involved in a brutal lathicharge on agitating farmers on August 28. Three rounds of talks earlier in the day with the district administration failed to resolve the matter, after which farmers marched 5 km to reach the mini secretariat, crossing six police barricades in the process.

Attempts to disperse them at the last barricade using water cannons failed. Till then they were allowed to proceed unhindered. When the march began, senior leaders of the Samyukt Kisan Morcha, including Rakesh Tikait, Balbir Singh Rajewal, Darshan Pal, Yogendra Yadav and Gurnam Singh Chaduni, were briefly detained by the police but let off within minutes.

Indicating the farmers were prepared for the long haul, tents and kitchens quickly sprung up at the dharna spot

Announcing the indefinite dharna, Tikait said, "We will stay put till our demands are met. We want action against IAS officer Ayush Sinha, the then Karnal sub-divisional magistrate (SDM), whose viral video showed him directing the police to brutally lathicharge the agitators on August 28."

Their demands included a compensation package of ₹25 lakh to the family of Sushil Kajal, a farmer who succumbed to his injuries allegedly after the police baton charge, and a government job for his son. As for the other farmers injured in the caning, they demanded a compensation of ₹2 lakh each.

Earlier in the day, a 11-member delegation of farmers held talks with Deputy Commissioner Nishant Kumar Yadav, Inspector General of Police, Karnal range, Mamta Singh, Superintendent of Police of Karnal Ganga Ram Punia and other officials for about two hours. The talks remained inconclusive as the farmers refused to budge from their demands.

Senior farmer leader Balbir Singh Rajewal said during the talks Nishant Kumar Yadav had sought to buy time — as much as a month — to probe if former SDM Ayush Sinha's objectionable words actually led to the police lathicharge. Harinder Singh Lakhowal, general secretary of BKU (Lakowal), said they were always ready for further talks.

Addressing a mahapanchayat at the new grain market, Yogendra Yadav said, "We have come to ask the government which law under the Constitution gives an IAS officer permission to give orders to break the heads of farmers."

Challenge for Khattar

The focus is now on Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar, as Karnal is his Assembly constituency. "The Khattar govt should agree to our demands or else arrest us. We are ready to fill Haryana jails," Tikait tweeted

RSS outfit's turn to hit the streets to support kisans

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

STRIKING a chord with the agitating farmers, the kisan wing of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh will hold a nationwide protest on Wednesday demanding a law guaranteeing procurement of foodgrains at remunerative prices after realistic assessment of variables like input cost and inflation.

Unlike the Samyukta Kisan Morcha, which has been pushing for total repeal of three controversial farm sector reform laws, the Bharatiya Kisan Sangh (BKS) wants the laws amended to accommodate its concerns. BKS general secretary Badrinath Choudhary demanded that the government come out with a law on guaranteed purchase of foodgrains at remunerative prices across the country. He also sought a mechanism where traders can be registered and on-the-spot payment made to farmers.

"The prevailing situation wherein procurement of foodgrains takes place largely in Punjab and Haryana, must change. Farmers across the country should be able to sell their produce at fixed prices with facility for immediate payments," added Choudhury.

The BKS said any purchase below the fixed price for grains should be declared a crime.

FEAR OF VIOLENCE

Earlier in the day, the Karnal district administration and police issued a statement citing intelligence reports to claim that some anti-social elements had reached the city armed with lathis and iron rods etc. "It does not show good intention. All such elements with be strictly dealt with in accordance with law," the statement read

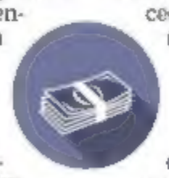
INTERNET DOWN

Haryana has suspended mobile Internet services in Karnal, Kurukshetra, Kaithal, Jind and Panipat districts. Also, 40 companies of security forces, including 10 of CAPF, have been deployed. Prohibitory orders under Section 144 of the CrPC has been imposed

CAIRN READY TO ACCEPT REFUND, WITHDRAW CASE

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Chennai

UK-based Cairn Energy Plc will drop litigations to seize Indian government properties abroad, including diplomatic apartments in Paris and Air India airplanes in the US, after getting $1 billion refund of retrospective tax collected by the Centre, Cairn CEO Simon Thomson said.



The government had last month enacted a new legislation to reverse the controversial retrospective tax law of 2012, which had led to tax claims worth over ₹1.1 lakh crore against multinational companies such as Cairn Energy Plc, Vodafone Plc, pharma major Sanofi, and alcohol sector firm SABMiller.

The government had already secured around ₹8,100 crore from such companies through a variety of routes. Of this, ₹7,783 crore (of $1.06 billion) was collected from Cairn alone. From this refund, Cairn plans to return up to $700 million to shareholders — $500 million through a special dividend and a share buyback programme worth $200 million. "The remainder of the proceeds would be allocated to further expansion of the low cost, sustainable production base," it said.

Cairn also plans to enter into statutory undertakings with the GoI related to the new legislation. While it admitted that the final form of these statutory undertakings has yet to be published by the GoI, it went on to note that it anticipates that the principal condition prescribed will be the withdrawal of Cairn's rights under the international arbitration award.

Karnataka ups Nipah surveillance at border

COVID FATALITY RATE ZERO IN MANY DISTS

Ten districts have reported zero Case Fatality Rate (CFR) in the past seven days, while three districts have recorded less than 1%. The districts with zero CFR are Ballari, Chikkaballapur, Gadag, Chitradurga, Kalaburagi, Koppal, Raichur, Ramanagara, Shivamogga and Yadgir. Districts with under 1% CFR are Kodagu, Chikkamagaluru and Udupi. P3

GOVT ADVISES AGAINST KERALA TRAVEL

The State Government on Tuesday issued an advisory asking institutions and businesses to instruct their wards and employees to defer travel from Kerala to Karnataka, and vice-versa, till the end of October. The public have also been advised to put off plans to visit the neighbouring state, in view of the prevailing health situation. P3

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

IN view of confirmed cases of the Nipah virus infection reported in Kerala, the state government issued a circular to strengthen surveillance and preparedness in Karnataka, with special focus on the border districts of Dakshina Kannada, Udupi, Mysuru, Kodagu and Chamarajanagar.

"The arrivals from Kerala should be monitored for symptoms like fever, altered mental status, severe weakness, headache, respiratory distress, cough, vomiting, muscle pain, convulsion and diarrhea. A systematic surveillance system is a necessary method to identify clusters of encephalitis cases, resulting in early detection of Nipah outbreaks," the circular read, adding that suitable samples will be sent to NIV, Pune, for lab confirmation.

Hours before embarking on his two-day New Delhi trip, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai told reporters here on Tuesday that experts have been asked to gather a detailed report on the spread of the Nipah virus. P3

Fresh to home
WEDNESDAY MARKET
Another Wednesday. Another meaty mid-week sale!
Fresh Products | Best Deals | 90 Min Delivery
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T&C Apply. All prices except for Chicken Cutlet are inclusive of taxes. Offers valid only for today and till stocks last. Images used are for representative purposes only and may differ from the actual products.

JAB-O-METER

TAKE YOUR SHOT

September 6: 1,10,40,809 doses
September 7: 67,43,698 doses

TOTAL DOSES: 70,63,55,796

NATIONWIDE	SEPT 06	SEPT 07
Fresh cases	38,948	31,222
Recoveries	43,903	42,942
Deaths	219	290

KARNATAKA	SEPT 06	SEPT 07
Fresh cases	973	851
Recoveries	1,071	750
Deaths	17	15

MEDAL HAUL IN MYSURU

These 3 'Golden Girls' show true grit

Chaitra Narayan Hegde, Vidyashree L.R, Madalambike TS, Harshitha N and Sindhu Nagaraj with their medals in Mysuru on Tuesday | UDAYSHANKAR S

KARTHIK K K @ Mysuru

SURMOUNTING hurdles like lack of public transport, disability and financial difficulties, these three spirited "Golden Girls" of Mysore University bagged whopping 31 medals among themselves at the 101st convocation of the university on Tuesday.

Chaitra Narayan Hegde, an MSc Chemistry graduate, Madalambike T S and Latha H N, MA graduates, defied all odds to make it big in their studies.

Chaitra moved to Mysuru University as her village in Uttara Kannada district did not have public transport or good educational institutions. She did her B.Sc from Yuvaraja's College and got a seat for M.Sc Chemistry. She helped herself to 20 medals and four cash prizes, emerging as the highest medal winner in the university.

Madalambike, who comes from Tammdahalli village in Chamarajanagar district, showed true grit in the face of deep personal loss.

CONTINUED ON: P7